Dr. Monica Merli, Ph.D.
merli@gonzaga.edu
Office hours: by appointment or simply open door policy

Prerequisites: Italian Language 201

Course Description
In this course the students will refine their skills in speaking, writing, reading and listening to Italian, while completing their knowledge of grammar and vocabulary. We will talk about some aspects of contemporary Italian culture and society (cinema, music, theater, literature). We will consider and discuss newspapers and magazines as well as short stories and a novel. Emphasis will be placed on written texts, idiomatic expressions and vocabulary expansion.

In addition there will be a focus on achieving cultural competency by covering topics such as Italian cultural elements. This course strongly emphasizes the use of Italian in everyday situations.

We will focus on developing communication skills and increasing vocabulary in the following situations:
- confidently communicate and interact in Italian in multiple situations.
- express personal opinions and hypothesise on a variety of subjects including culture and society, expose readings and events.
- understand complex texts, dialogues and conversations in different communicative situations, selected from movies or talk-show.
- read and understand texts selected from cultural topics such as current events.
- build detailed and articulate written texts, cohesive and coherent.

Specific Outcomes
During targeted class activities, students will be placed in situations which are linguistically challenging and culturally new for them, and asked to overcome communication barriers (e.s. speaking to Italians using both verbal and non-verbal forms of communication).
In this way, students will develop and demonstrate an awareness of and empathise toward people who face similar struggles in their environment, language and culture (immigrants, social linguistic minorities...).
The outcome is for students to begin the process of becoming open minded global citizens.

Required text:
Professor Merli will provide the students with study materials and tools.
Teaching Method
The course offers interactive classes based on a communicative approach to language study. Students will be exposed to a wide variety of materials ranging from textbook, on-line resources, to audio and video materials, in order to develop listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Different types of classroom activities are listening exercises, role-plays, interviews, grammar and vocabulary exercises, conversations and written compositions. We will also organize a series of field trips and visits in Florence so that students can learn more about the city, interact with native speakers and practice Italian in authentic situations.

Class Rules
Cell-phones must be off. Food, beverages (except for bottled water) and chewing gum are not admitted in class.,
Homework completed with the use of translation sites such as Google Translate will not be accepted.

Gonzaga in Florence Attendance Policy
Attendance is taken at the beginning of class from the first day of the semester. The student entering class after role has been taken has to contact the professor at the end of the lesson to record his/her presence. However, this does not mean that coming late is acceptable. Two late arrivals may be excused, three turn automatically into an absence and will affect the attendance and participation part of the final grade.

Students can miss one week’s work- for ITA 202, four classes. It is their responsibility to make up any missed work. If they miss a quiz or a report they can make it up only with the professor’s permission.

More than one week missed will be penalized as follows:

One extra absence:
1. by lowering the attendance and participation grade as determined by the professor

Two extra absences
2. by lowering the final grade by a whole letter grade

Three extra absences
3. by grading the whole course F

Assessment Criteria
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Compositions</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral Presentations</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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Homework
Students are expected to complete all the assigned homework in order to be well prepared for each class and are responsible for any work missed due to absence.
During the semester, you will be required to meet twice with an Italian university student for a **conversational exchange**. The first meeting will take place during class hours and the second one will be organized independently. If you meet for a third time and submit a report about your three encounters, you will receive 3 extra points in your final grade.

**Oral Presentations.** Individually, students will prepare a talk to present for the class. They will first provide professor Merli with the written text, and then perform in class. The written part will be included in the total grade.

**Compositions:** must be **typed, double-spaced** and submitted on the due date. Any writing done with translators (Google Translate, etc.) will not be graded and no late submissions will be accepted without previous professor approval.

**Quizzes and Exams**
There will be four written quizzes, one written Mid-Term and a written cumulative Final Exam. Missed exams will be counted as an F. Short quizzes will be given at the beginning of some class periods.

- **Quiz 1** Jan. 24th Tuesday
- **Quiz 2** Feb. 9th Thursday
- **Mid-Term** Feb. 23rd Thursday
- **Quiz 3** Mar. 16th Thursday
- **Quiz 4** Mar 30th Thursday
- **Final Exam** T.B.A.

**Grading scale:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94–100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90–93</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84–86</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80–83</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>below 65</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87–89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77–79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Significance for the final grade of attendance and participation**

A: the student has no absence, is punctual and respectful with the professors and the classmates, is always prepared for class (has done the reading and writing assignments); He/she actively participates in class activities.

B: the student is respectful and punctual, is prepared for class, participates in class activities and has a good level of understanding and an appropriate use of language.

C: the student is not always prepared for class. He/she has a minimal participation.

**Special Accommodation for students with learning disabilities**

Documented learning disabilities or other medically certified problems that need special accommodation for any of the student's expected academic performances will be treated with the due attention.

**Suggestions for successful learning:**

- Experience Italian culture
- Use Italian whenever possible (in the pensione, the stores, etc.)
- Meet Italians!
Tell people that you are studying the language “sto studiando italiano” if they use english with you.

Don’t let the fear of making mistakes prevent you.

**Course Outline**

**Week one – Settimana uno (9-12 gennaio)**
Presentazione del corso.
Definizione e precisazione di alcune attività del semestre.
Compiti: revisione del presente indicativo regolare e irregolare; presentarsi, esprimere abilità, gusti e preferenze. La forma progressiva "stare + gerundio." (materiali del docente)

**Week two – Settimana due (16-19 gennaio)**
Attività di ripasso.
Il passato prossimo regolare e irregolare: riferire su esperienze e eventi passati.
L’imperfetto. (materiali del docente)

**Week three – Settimana tre (23-26 gennaio)**
Attività di ripasso.
Raccontare al passato: Passato prossimo/ Imperfetto.
I pronomi riflessivi, diretti, indiretti, ciòè meò

✓ **QUIZ 1 Martedì 24 gennaio**

**Week four – Settimana quattro (30-3 febbraio)**
Attività di ripasso.
Progetti per il futuro: futuro regolare e irregolare. Ipotesi all’indicativo.

**Week five – Settimana cinque (6-9 febbraio)**
Una sana alimentazione: Imperativo informale, formale e con pronomi. Imperativo e condizionale.

✓ **QUIZ 2 Giovedì 9 febbraio**

**Week six – Settimana sei (13-16 febbraio)**
La salute: Pronomi combinati. Comparativi e superlativi.

**Week seven – Settimana sette (20-23 febbraio)**
Imparare le lingue straniere: trapassato prossimo. Pronomi relativi.

*Review and Mid-term Exam – Revisione e Esame di metà semestre*

**Spring Break (27-3 marzo)**
Week eight – Settimana otto (6-9 marzo)
Vivere in città: Condizionale passato (ripasso del condizionale presente). Passato remoto.

Week nine – Settimana nove (13-16 marzo)
Stereotipi: Congiuntivo presente.
✓ QUIZ 3 Giovedì 16 marzo

Week ten – Settimana dieci (20-23 marzo)
Il congiuntivo presente e passato. Aggettivi e pronomi indefiniti.
ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Week eleven – Settimana undici (27-30 marzo)
Opinioni: Congiuntivo imperfetto e trapassato.
ORAL PRESENTATION
✓ QUIZ 30 Giovedì 30 marzo

Week twelve – Settimana dodici (3-6 aprile)

Week Thirteen – Settimana tredici (10-13 aprile)
General review.

17 - 20 aprile: Esame finale